



Nebraska Board of Geologists Strategic Plan

Approved: October 6, 2016

Mission Statement and Operating Philosophy

The Board assures geological practices in Nebraska are carried out by qualified individuals to safeguard life, health, property, and to promote the public welfare. The Mission is carried out by:

- Assuring that those who serve the public through the practice of geology have the education and experience needed to be competent in the field;
- Enforcing the Geologists Regulation Act through education and compliance oversight; and
- Providing quality and responsive regulatory services.

Student Outreach

The purpose of conducting Student Outreach is to promote licensure awareness and the advantages of licensure as well as promote the professional growth of the students.

Goals

1. Provide presentations and be available for questions at the Nebraska Geological Society (NGS) meetings
2. Board presentations at student seminars
3. Promote the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam as an exit exam from Nebraska geological and/or geography programs
4. Create a "Next Steps" contact process for recent graduates and/or seniors of Nebraska programs

Action Plan

1. Designate a current board member to represent the Board at NGS meetings
2. Create a presentation approved by the Board to be used when presenting at student seminars
3. Arrange an initial meeting with the education institutions in Nebraska to promote the use of the FG exam as an exit exam
4. Have a board presence at designated conferences and meetings through the use of an information table/exhibit
5. Explore holding a regularly scheduled board meetings at the various Nebraska educational institutions
6. Explore the creation of social media accounts such as Facebook

Progress Report



Nebraska Board of Geologists Strategic Plan

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Website Redesign

The purpose of redesigning the Board's website is to bring the site up to date with current technology and to make it more user friendly and consistent with other Nebraska state agencies.

Goal

To have a new website completed and launched by December 2017.

Action Plan

1. Re-apply for a grant from the Nebraska State Records Board to cover the development costs of the new website if the grant program is reinstated
2. If grant is not awarded, add funds to the 2017/2019 Biennium Budget Request
3. Work with Nebraska Interactive on design and development

Progress Report

- 9/28/16 Received notice from the Records Board that the board had voted to suspend the grant program due to budget restraints in place by the Governor – funds were included in the 2017-2019 Biennium Budget to cover the cost if the grant was not awarded
- 10/6/16 Link and Martin appointed to work with AA Lais on the site design – All members are to review the list of sites already launched and send their recommendations to AA Lais for discussion at the January 2017 meeting

Common Practice Areas and Cooperative Agreements

The purpose of defining common practice areas and pursuing cooperative agreements is to open the lines of communication between the Board and other organizations and Nebraska state agencies.

Goals

1. Define common practice areas which should involve a professional geologists
2. Identify other organizations and Nebraska State Agencies which have interaction with professional geologists

Action Plan

1. Create talking points on what is the practice of geology based on the common practice areas
2. Visit with other state boards and agencies for periodic informational engagement and discuss possible crossover practice areas.



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3. Hold an annual meeting with the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA) and the Nebraska State Board of Landscape Architects (NSBLA) chairs and executive director to discuss common issues

Progress Report

- 8/31/16 A list of common practice areas was defined along with a list of agencies identified as having interaction with professional geologists.
- 10/6/16 Link and Svingen will be responsible for the initial contact with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) – Joyce will make the initial contact with the Department of Roads (NDOR) and the Water Well Standards and Contractors Board

Continued Cooperation with ASBOG (National Society of Board of Geologists)

The purpose of continued cooperation with ASBOG is to have influence on the quality of the national licensing exams and to stay up to date with current national issues and trends.

Goals

1. Regular attendance at the ASBOG Annual Meeting and Council of Examiners (COE) Workshops
2. Creation of exam questions by Board members not attending the COE Workshops
3. To ensure Nebraska has a voice on issues being addressed by ASBOG
4. Have board members become involved with ASBOG on the committee level

Action Plan

1. Ensure funding is secured to allow members and staff to attend the Annual Meeting and COE Workshops
2. Inquire of ASBOG as to the process of submitting exam questions by those not attending the COE Workshops
3. Learn more about the ASBOG Committees and volunteering process and send names to ASBOG of members willing to become involved

Progress Report

- 8/31/16 One member was approved at the July 2016 meeting to attend the 2016 ASBOG Annual meeting and two members were approved to attend the COE Workshop in November 2016. An additional member expressed interest in attending the COE Workshop.
- 10/6/16 AA Lais to contact ASBOG to inquire about information on open committee positions and the process for submitting exam questions outside the COE Workshops.



Nebraska Board of Geologists Strategic Plan

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Professional and Public Outreach

The purpose of conducting professional and public outreach is to provide better information on the practice of geology to the public and to create a more effective enforcement of the Geologists Regulations Act through professional education.

Goals

1. Identify groups and agencies for possible outreach engagement
2. Present/have information tables/exhibits at designated events
3. Revive the publishing of the Board's newsletter
4. Hold an annual New Licensee Ceremony for individuals licensed by exam in Nebraska

Action Plan

1. Involvement with the Environmental Update Panel hosted by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ)
2. Presence at the Legislative Breakfast hosted by NDEQ and the Ground Water Foundation
3. Begin publication of the Board's newsletter
4. Organize a ceremony/meeting to recognize those licensed in Nebraska by exam
5. Solicit feedback from the licensees on the common practice areas once completed
6. Develop PowerPoint presentations for use during student seminars and outreach programs

Progress Report:

- 8/31/16 A list of agencies with whom outreach engagements could be coordinated with was identified
- 10/6/16 Joyce, Correll, and Svingen were identified as the members to begin work on the presentations